

Our school may be small, but our motto says it all!

The small school of Collinsvale, nestled in the foothills of Mount Wellington, celebrated its diverse enrichment programmes at its values education school forum on 2 August 2006.

The acting principal, Kathy Morgan, explained the focus of their activities at the launch of their new school song and mural:

One of my goals for this year was to capitalise on opportunities to provide extension and enrichment programmes for our students and to build on the fantastic leadership programmes already in place. Our whole school focus on the value of Responsibility and on our school logo 'Caring and Sharing' combined with a successful Australian Government values education grant was the starting point for our work for this forum.

Every one of our 63 students was involved in composing the song; with students working with large sheets of paper and marker pens as we brainstormed words and phrases that eventually became the verses and chorus for our new school song. Senior students combined these words and phrases into lines and eventually our wonderful music teacher did the finishing touches and put the song to music. The instrumental work by the students adds a further dimension to the song. The Grade 6 students assisted the younger children and staff to learn the song in their daily PE groups.

Every student was involved in drawing images that depicted 'caring and sharing' and subsequently in painting the mural that we will open today. Denise Gardner and a group of parents oversaw the project and we certainly would not have a mural if it wasn't for the wonderful artistic leadership provided by Denise. Thanks also to the terrific staff and wonderful students, particularly our 11 grade six leaders who have taken on many additional responsibilities in preparation for today. You deserve to be proud of what you have achieved. Later you will observe Responsibility, Caring and Sharing in action as our student leaders share their social stories with the younger students and facilitate Daily PE before we open the school mural.

The students commented that it was exciting to be involved in the eight-week project, with community members pitching in at weekends and after school to make sure everything was ready for the opening. The students also believe that composing the song and creating the mural have led to a greater spirit of teamwork.

The song was launched and the mural unveiled by David Bartlett, the Tasmanian Minister for Education, who recalled having been involved in a similar exercise in his primary school days. He congratulated the volunteers on their commitment to 'making a difference in the lives of the students, and enhancing not only education but also the community life around the school'. He also added, 'Both [the mural and song] will remain part of the school to inspire future generations of students to work together and look after their classmates and teachers'.